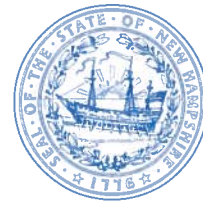




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 6, 2016

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1589-FN** *An act prohibiting the transportation of exotic aquatic weeds.*

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1589. This bill would prohibit the transport of exotic aquatic weeds and provide guidelines for properly cleaning and draining transient boats. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

Data collected by both NHDES and others show that most new infestations of invasive aquatic species are found first at the boat launch sites of waterbodies. This suggests that transient boats launched at these sites are the primary vectors for spreading these species. New Hampshire currently has 85 waterbodies infested by exotic aquatic weeds, and four waterbodies that support dense infestations of invasive aquatic animals. In order to better protect New Hampshire's waterbodies, additional steps are needed to further prevent the spread of these species, and HB 1589-FN will enhance aquatic weed prevention capabilities by outlining explicit expectations for transient recreational gear users.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator (amy.smagula@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2248), or Ted Diers, Watershed Management Bureau Administrator (ted.diers@des.nh.gov or 271-3289).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Cc: Reps. Gottling, Smith, Spang, Mullen, Ebel; Sens. Bradley, Fuller Clark

